



Ch Roy Baldridge
Pvt 1st A.E.F.

Audenarde Belgium
Nov. 11, 1918

“I WAS THERE”

WITH THE YANKS
ON THE WESTERN FRONT
1917-1919

BY
C. LEROY BALDRIDGE
Pvt. A. E. F.

TOGETHER WITH VERSES
BY
HILMAR R. BAUKHAGE
Pvt. A. E. F.

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C. LEROY BALDRIDGE



NOV -4 1919



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TO OUR MOTHERS

Ours the Great Adventure,
Yours the pain to bear,
Ours the golden service stripes,
Yours the marks of care.

If all the Great Adventure
The old Earth ever knew,
Was ours and in this little book
'Twould still belong to you!

These Sketches

were made during a year's service as a camion driver with the French army in the Chemin-des-Dames sector and a year's service with the A.E.F. as an infantry private on special duty with "The Stars and Stripes," the official A.E.F. newspaper. Most of them were drawn at odd minutes during the French push of 1917 near Fort Malmaison, at loading parks and along the roadside while on truck convoy, and while on special permission to draw and paint with the French army given me by the Grand Quartier Général during the time I was stationed at Soissons. The rest were drawn on American fronts from the Argonne to Belgium as my duties took me from one offensive to another.

It has been a keen regret to me that my artistic skill has been so unequal to these opportunities. The sketches do not sufficiently show war for the stupid horror I know it to be.

I hope, however, they may serve as a record of doughboy types, of the people he lived with in France, with whom he suffered and by whose side he fought.

Many appeared first in "The Stars and Stripes," "Leslie's Weekly," and "Scribner's Magazine," through the courtesy of whose editors I am now enabled to reprint them.

C. Le Roy Baldridge
Private, Am. E. F.

June 1919

I WAS THERE

Sunny
France



Warming up
the "corned
willy" over
"corned
heat"
(solidified
alcohol)



Rain
overhead
and
mud underfoot

Balding Near Montfaucon 18



The Tank

C. Leroy Bealridge
Pvt A.E.F. '19

Fighting
Trim



C.L. Roy Baldridge



America's Seichesrey
-first trenches entirely under
their own command

Seichesrey
America's old home sector.

C. L. Roy Ballbridge April 19

THE LINE

Form a line!

Get in line!

From the time that I enlisted
And since Jerry armististed
I've been standing, kidding, cussing,
I've been waiting, fuming, fussing,
In a line.

I have stood in line in mud and slime and sleet,
With the dirty water oozing from my feet,
I have soaked and slid and slipped,
While my tacky slicker dripped,
And I wondered what they'd hand me out to eat.

Get in line!

For supplies and for inspections,
With the dust in four directions,
For a chance to scrub the dirt off,
In the winter with my shirt off,
In a line.

I have sweated in an August training camp,
That would make a prohibition town look damp,
Underneath my dinky cap
While the sun burned off my map
And I waited for some gold-fish (and a cramp!).

Get in line!

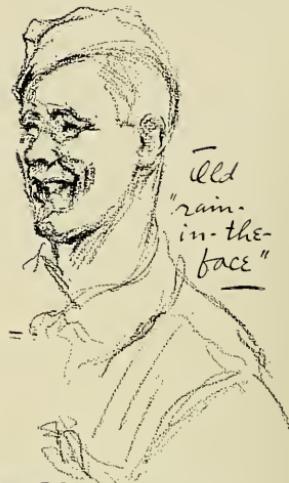
For rice, pay-day, pills, and ration,
For corned-willy, army fashion,
In Hoboken, in the trenches,
In a station with the Frenchies,
In a line.

I've been standing, freezing, sweating,
Pushing, shoving, wheezing, fretting,
And I won't be soon forgetting
Though I don't say I'm regretting
That I stood there, with my buddies,
In a line.



Pt. C. Le Roy Baldridge
C. E. F.

The lids we wear =





—
He used to
hunt rabbits
in Kentucky
—

R.B.

Ch Roy Baldridge



The job
that's never
ended

Cleaning
up for
inspection

First time in two weeks!



Catherine Dulacraft

Montmorency



The letter from home

reading



The Ration Detail

a job which no one
relishes. Each day,
the other fellows
artillery tries to lay
down a fire which
will keep these boys
from getting back. They
travel to where thin
supply company has
dumped the food from
mule carts - the point
nearest front where
creaking wheels may
go. The man in the
center is carrying a
string of French loaves,
the round, black variety,
common before we
got our own bakeries
started.



The Headquarters Company of the Reserve Millit taking its bath at Charingy Farm. The tub is a tan-lined cigarette box used by the Y.M.C.A water is heated in the old farm fire-place.

Balding 1918

“PREPARE FOR ACTION”

I ran into Johnny Redlegs
A-sitting on his bus,
And I asked him why the devil
He dropped half his shells on us.
He just smiles and puffs his corn-cob,
As peaceful as a Persian,
And, “Buddy,” says he, “you can’t blame me,
You gotta blame dispersion.”

I says to Johnny Redlegs,
“If I didn’t have nine lives
Your barrage would have got me
With those lousy seventy-fives.”
He grins and puffs his corn-cob,
And then he winks, reflective,
And, “Buddy,” says he, “you can’t blame me
If you pass your damn objective.”

I says to Johnny Redlegs
(Just kidding him, you know),
“The trouble with your popgun is
She pops too gol-darned slow.”
Then Redlegs drops his corn-cob
And spits on both his han’s,
And, “Buddy,” says he, “you can kid with me
And the whole damned Field Artilleree,
But there’ll be a dud where you used to be
If you kid my swasont-cans!”



"I know a girl at home who looks just like you
bene



"Johnny Redlegs"
guardian of
the
"Soixante-
quinsé"
(the famous
French "75")

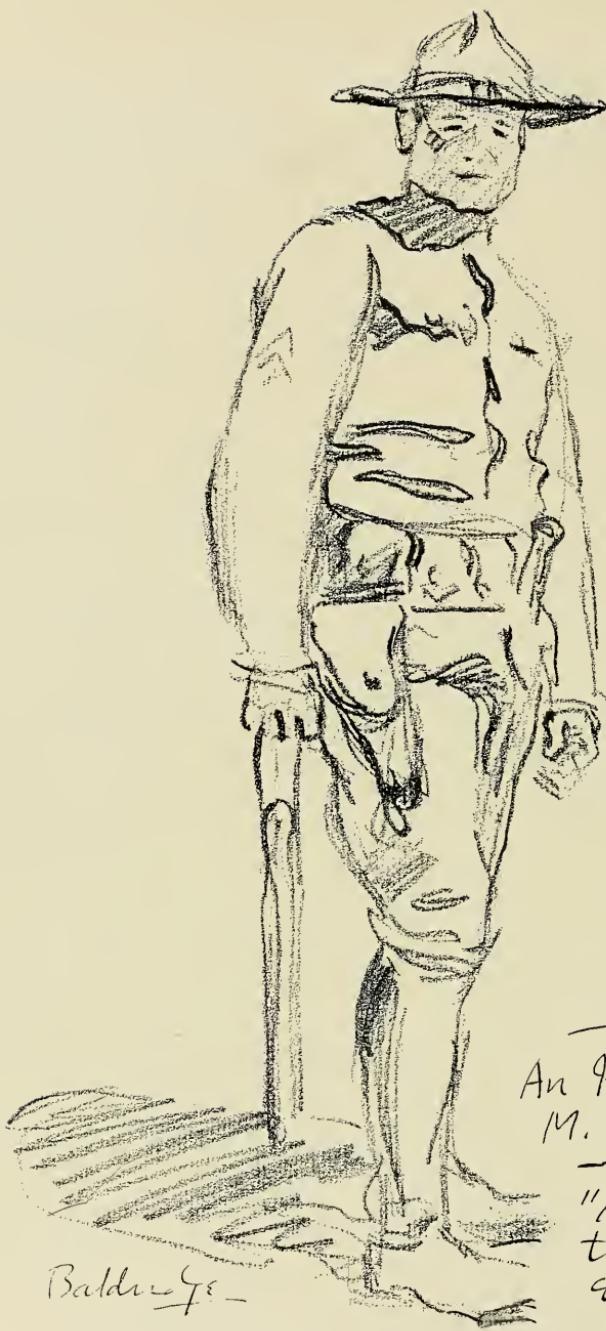
and the
doughboy who
tries to keep
just the right
distance from
the
covering
barrage
fire

Che Roy Baldridge
France



The Bugs"
Two men, French style tanks

John Baldridge - Acrylic Paint



An Indian
M. P.

"A chance
to get
even"

Baldwin Ge-



A Survivor
of the old
regular army

C Le Roy Baldridge



—
Among the
first
sent
across

They served
with the French
in '17



Reading their shirts



Her boy too -



American and French field artillery gun crews camped together in a wood near Charseny. The canvas overhead keeps the fire from being observed by aeroplanes at night.



Using a
shell-shocked
tree for
a telegraph
pole.

The linesman at the front

Same old job
with just a
couple per cent
more risk
than usual



St. Mihail
1918



Dumb Beasts



In the
Missouri
draft



Wagon train
trucks : "Maud"
and "Mud"

Former refugee
- now mascot
and the
only



mom
in the
outfit
who
likes
monkey meat





The
Aeroplane
Fight

Charles Baldwin Jr.
1917

RELIEF

z-z-z-z-z-Z-Z-Z-Z-e-e-e-e-E-E - - - - - b Boom!

There's another!

God, this pack is heavy.

Glad I pinched the extra willy,

Guess I'll need it.

And the sweater, too.

out there

-z-z-z-z-z-Z-Z-Z-E-E-EEEEEE-- b Boom!

There's another!

Jesse! that was a close one.

Wonder if.....good Christ! Where's Charlie?

Got him clean. God curse those Jerries!

I'll get even,—p'raps—

out there.

z-z-z-z-z-z-Z-Z-Z-E-E-E-E-e-e- - - - - b Boom!

There's another!

Over!

Well, if one has my name on it

Then the guv'ment pays ten thousand.

What's the use? I couldn't spend it.

Leastways not—

out there.

z-z-z-z-z-z-Z-Z-Z-e-e-e-e-E-E-E- - - b Boom!

There's another.

Where'd I put that plug of Climax?

Oh, I s'pose somebody swiped it.

Gee, I never thought that Charlie...

Glad I ain't out on the wire.

This damn trench is dark — ouch! Damn it,

Wait a minute.... Hell, I'm coming,

I can't run in this equipment.

What the hell's the rush to get—

out there?



The Relief

Coming up to the front lines through the communication trenches, which extend a kilometer or so. On these occasions little love is lost on "beautiful moonlight nights"

C. L. Roy Baldridge 1918



L. S., Baldridge

The roofs of New
York a few minutes of York
Parade lifted -



"The Germans have gone!"

Baldridge
St. Michael



The shell hole
Central



On
Guard



The noncombatant —

The family with whom I
lived in Soissons



In 1870
Grandpère
was taken as a
prisoner to
Coblenz



Madam
Framary
who served on
my buttons
and who
transformed
miserable
French
army
rations
into
marvelous
dishes



Erasme,
the young
est son who
starts his
three years of
compulsory
training in the
fall 1919



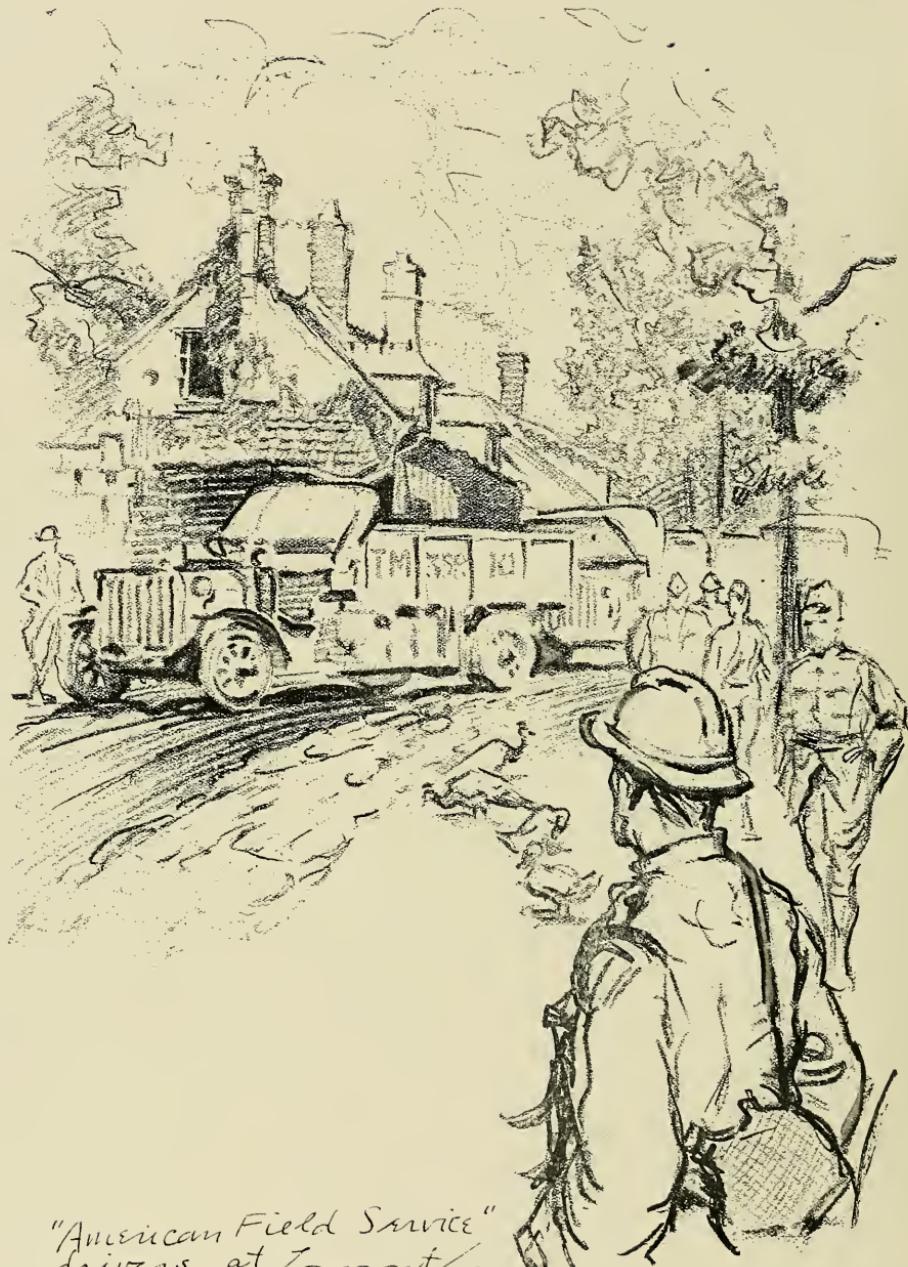
The eldest son
After his three
years of training
he was called to war.
He has never come
back.

Charles Roy Baldridge - Soissons - 1918

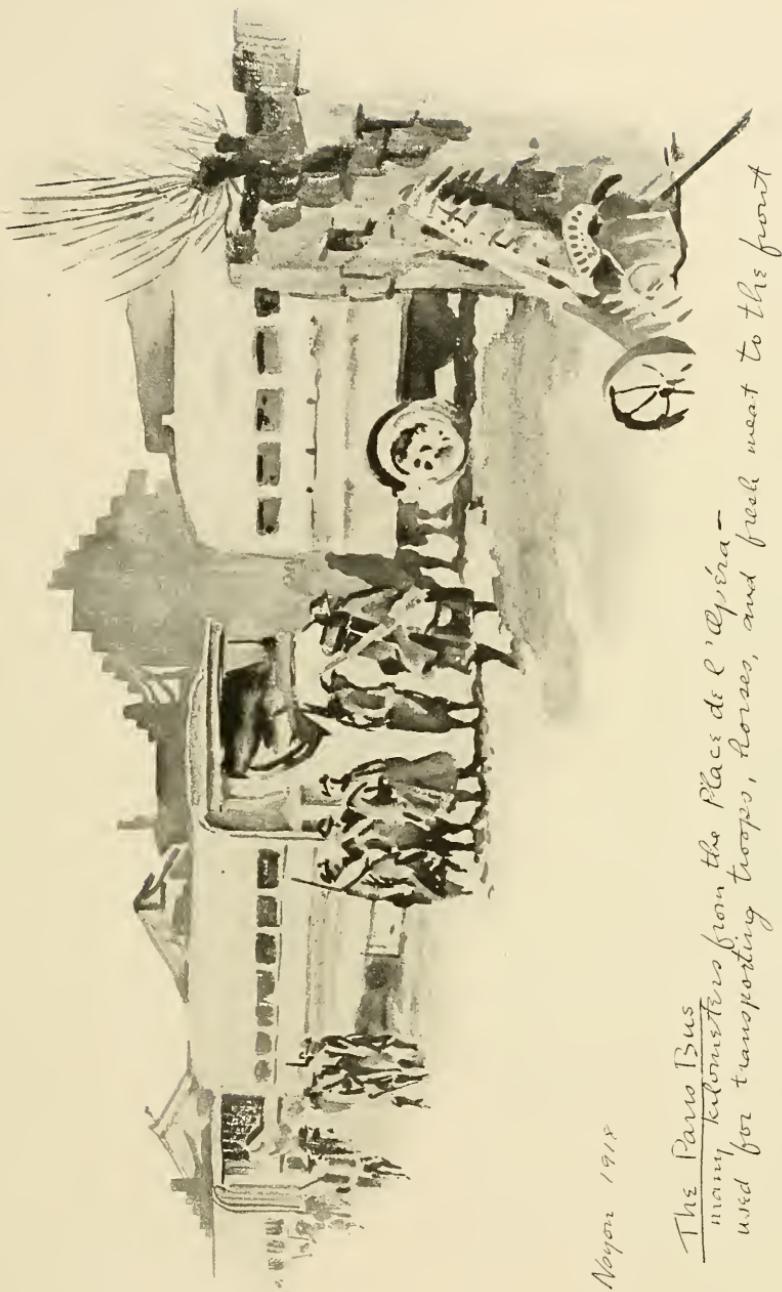


Ch Roi Baldric,
France 1917

Awaiting the signal to attack. The sergeant is ready to blow the whistle for his squad to follow him out through a path in the barbed wire. In another minute they will advance close behind the bursting shells of a heavy barrage which, lifting, will leave them face to face with German machine guns.



"American Field Service"
drivers at Longport 1917



Noyon 1918

The Paris Bus
mainly Koenigsberg from the Place de l'Opéra -
used for transporting troops, horses, and fresh meat to the front

FATIGUE

You can see 'em in the movies,
With the sunlight on their guns,
You can read in all the papers
Of the charge that licked the Huns,
You can read of "khaki heroes"
And of "gleaming bayonet,"
But there's one thing that the writers
And the artist all forget:

That's me!
On K. P.
In my suit of denim blue
I am thinking — not of you —
But the places where I'd like the top to be!

On the posters in the windows,
In the monthly magazine,
Are the boys in leather leggins
Such as Pershing's never seen;
Oh, they love to paint 'em pretty,
All dressed up and fit to kiss,—
Ain't it funny there's a picture
That they always seem to miss?

Bless me soul,
Loading coal!
In my little shimmy-shirt,
Eyes and mouth full up with dirt —
(In the next war I'll be living at the Pole.)



C. Le Feay Baldridge

Built
for
speed



and with
light pack
to match

P.B.—
Belleau Wood
• 1918
A Marine



Baldridge
Paris 1919

"Steady, buddy!"



15



Never too far
gone for a
smoke



But he wears the Legion of
Honor and the "croix de
guerre" —



C. K. Rey Baldvily
Vailly - 1917

The "Territorial"
the name given
French Poilu
between the ages
of 34 and 40



In an abri waiting
for the "Gothas" (big German planes) to go home



The veteran
of the Spanish-American war
tells 'em
how it
ought to
be done

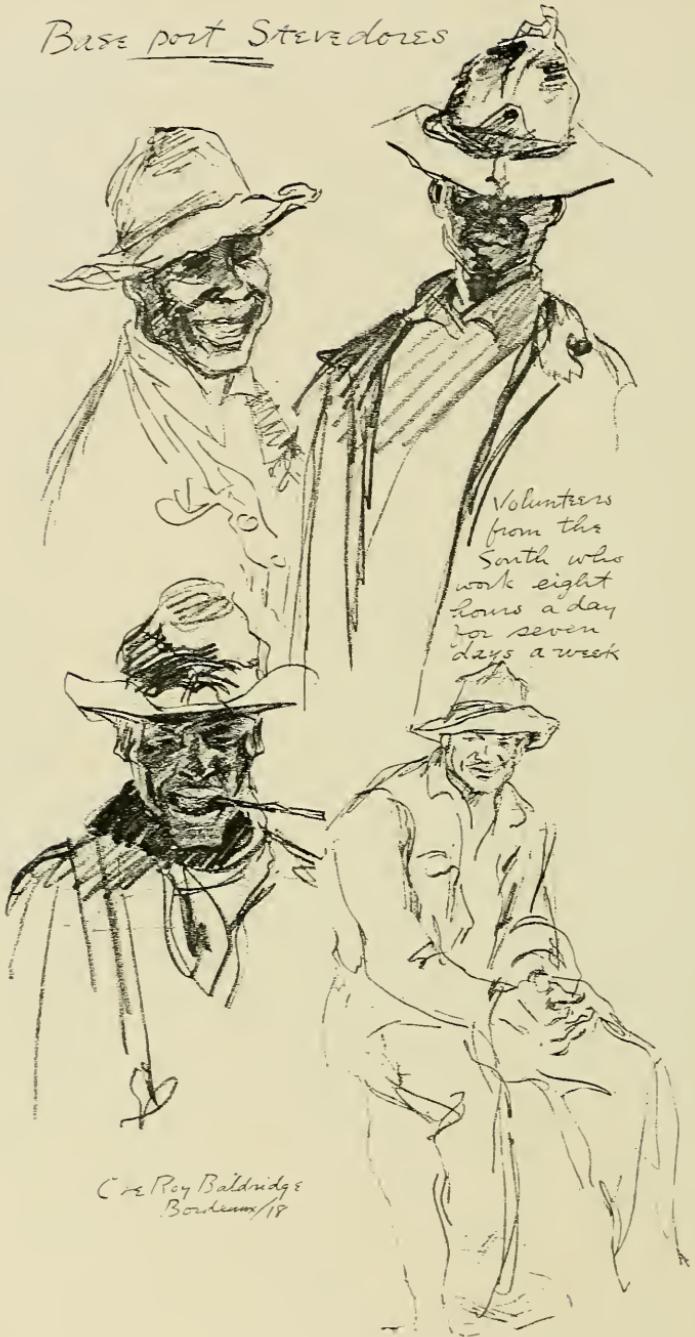


R. Luffery

Sketched at the
Lafayette Escadrille
field near Longpont
as the aviator
was getting into
his "union suit"
preparatory to
flying in a
Chemin-des-Dames
engagement

C. Heron Baldridge

Base port Stevedores



C. & Roy Baldridge
Bordenay/18



A 26' Pinyon Mesquite Tree
nearly buried by sand,
March 1915
Black and Prairie Schooner
on country road west of town.



C. Le Roy Baldridge

The end of his service

Veterans
of the
Marne



C.L. Roy Baldridge Pict Inf

POILU

When we left the transport
Back in St. Nazaire,
Second thing you asked us,—
“Quand finit la guerre?”
Didn’t know your lingo
You weren’t hard to get,
Peace was what you wanted —
And a cigarette.

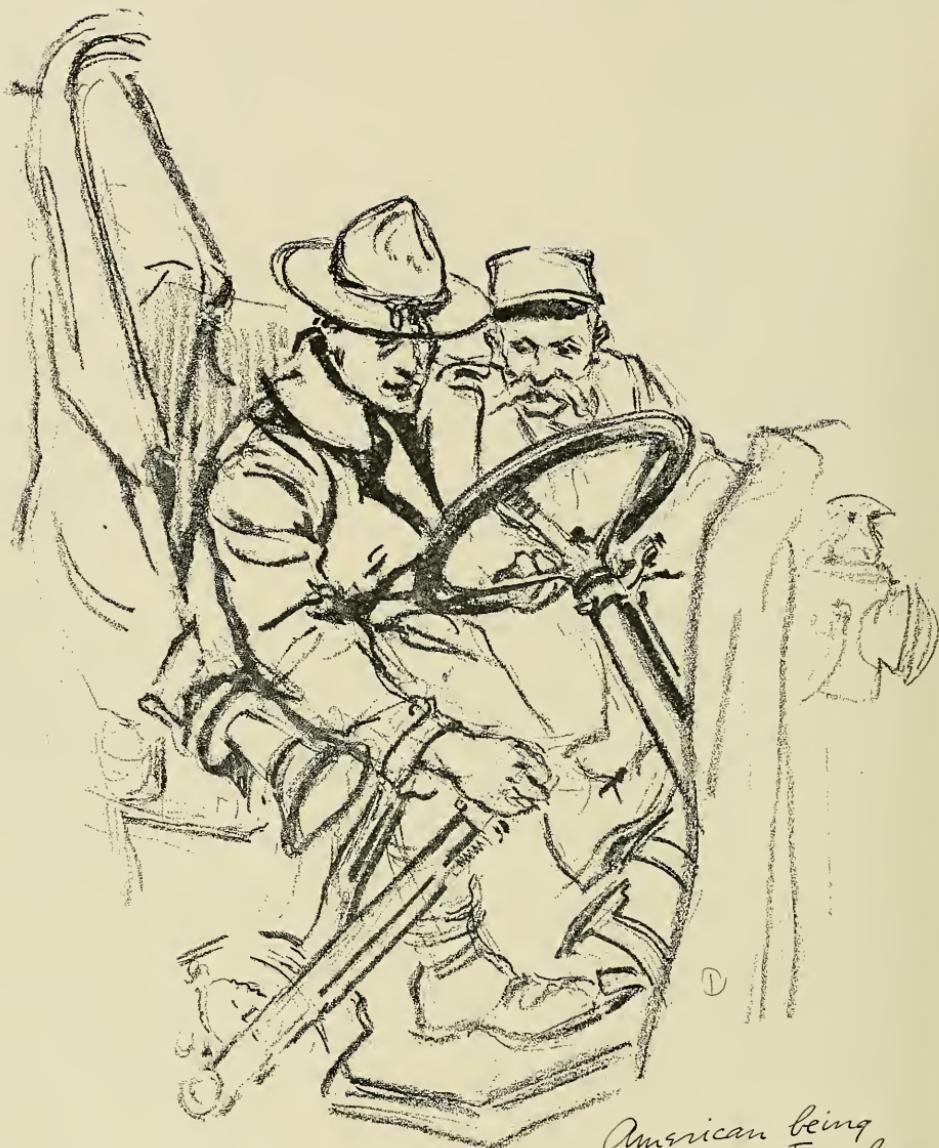
Then up in the trenches
It was just the same,
“When’s it going to finish?”
Didn’t seem quite game.
Then we saw you strafing,
Saw we had you wrong,
Wondered how you stood it
Four years long.

Drank your sour pinard,
Shared what smokes we had,
Got to know you better,
Found you weren’t so bad,
Four years in the trenches!
(One’s enough, I’ll say)
How the hell’d you do it
On five sous a day?



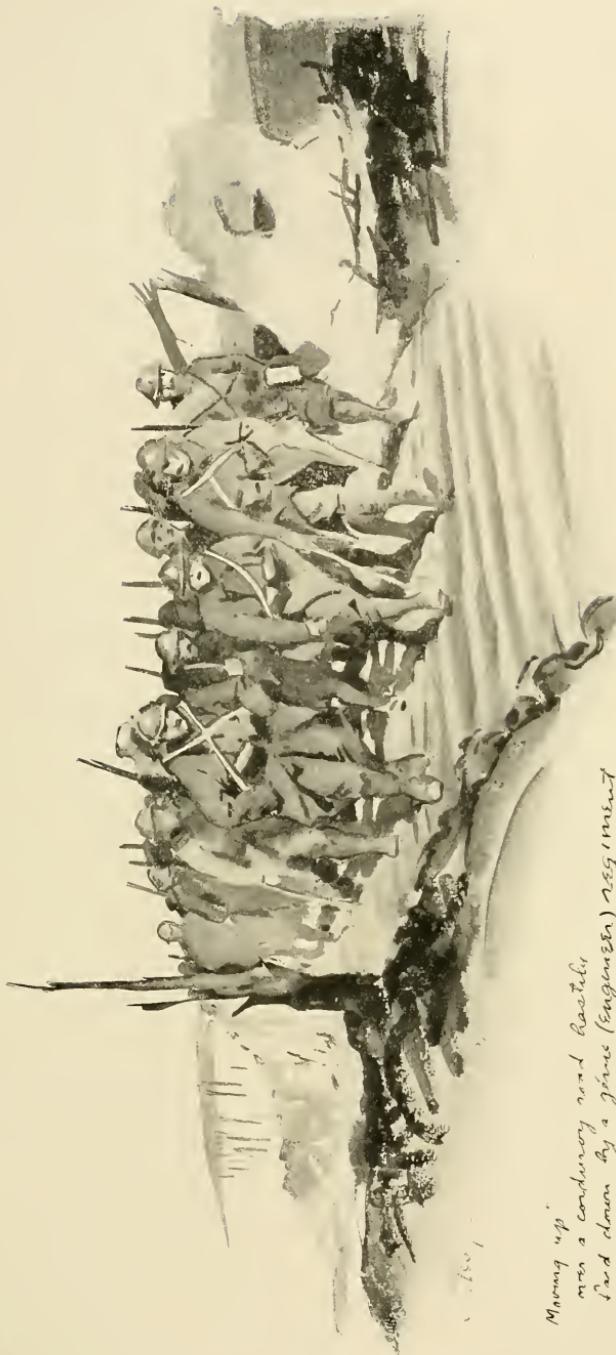
Chemin des Dames 47

Pot. C Le Poer Babridge



Ch. Roy Baldridge
France '17

American being
taught by Frenchman
to drive truck so
that the latter
may return to
his farm.



Moving up
over a sandy road hastily
laid down by a force (Engeretta) regiment
in rear - mounted Band. The pieces
of wall on the right is all that
remains of a French village
of two hundred inhabitants.



جَنْدُ الْأَرَبِيَّةِ

Arabian Knight



١٨٩٧ كـ

On other days
he rides a
camel in
Algeria

Baldridge

لَهْلَهْ لَهْلَهْ

Between drives he
works on the
railroad





1890's

Senegalese types
Volunteers used for
the attack and for
labor on roads

C Le Roy Baldridge
Varisty 1917

The ammoner
—poor priest
who marches
with the
troops

Of the
youngest
class.

C. Le Roy Baldric 1917
Moulin Laffaux

A father
of the class
of '89

He handles
a big naval
gun mounted
on rail-road
cars near
Scissors



Baldridge
1918

Un canonnier marin sur le front



In the war
of 1870 he
drove a team
instead of a gun.

French "Corvée" laborers.

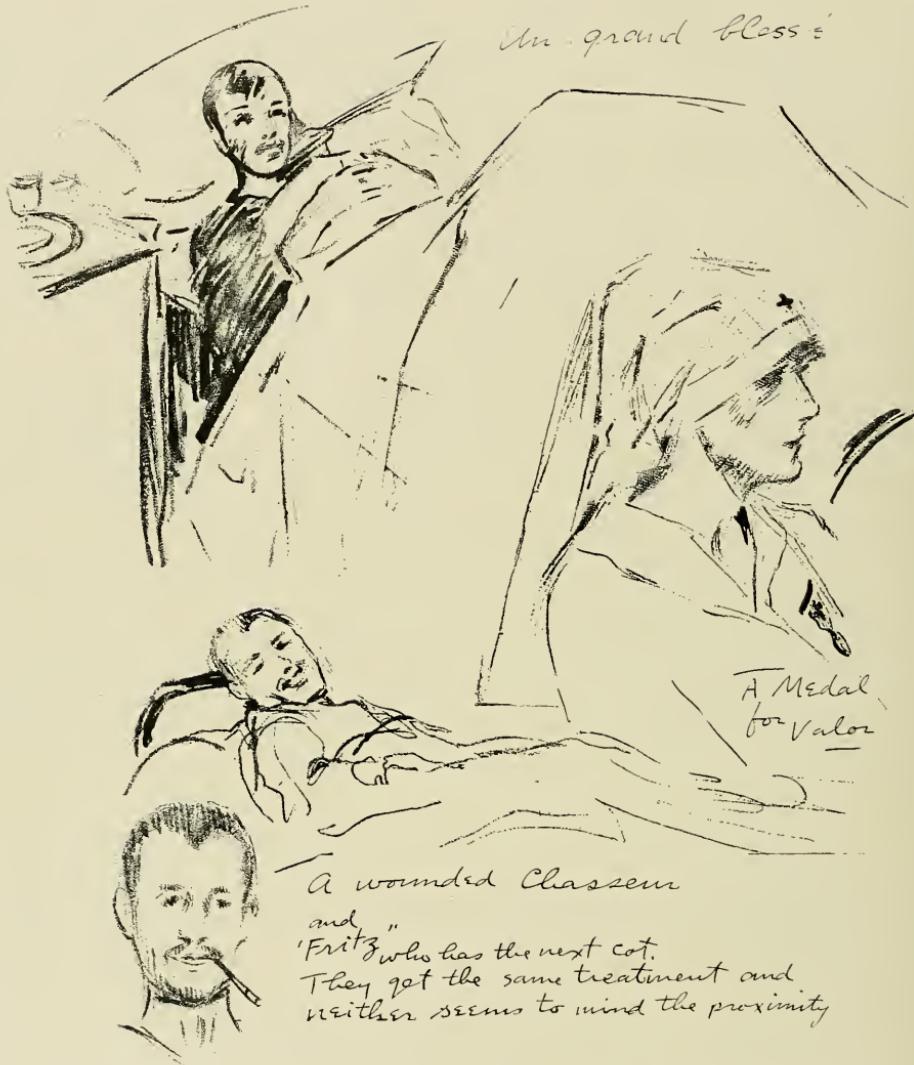
Too old to serve in the active army and so assigned to the more unromantic, uninteresting but vital work of loading camions, tending horses, or building and repairing roads back of the lines. It has been said that the first battle of Verdun was won by the camion service. This is the kind of man who made that victory possible.





E Roy Baldridge
France '17

Toul sector days -
Waiting for something to
happen -



MAN Baldwgs'17

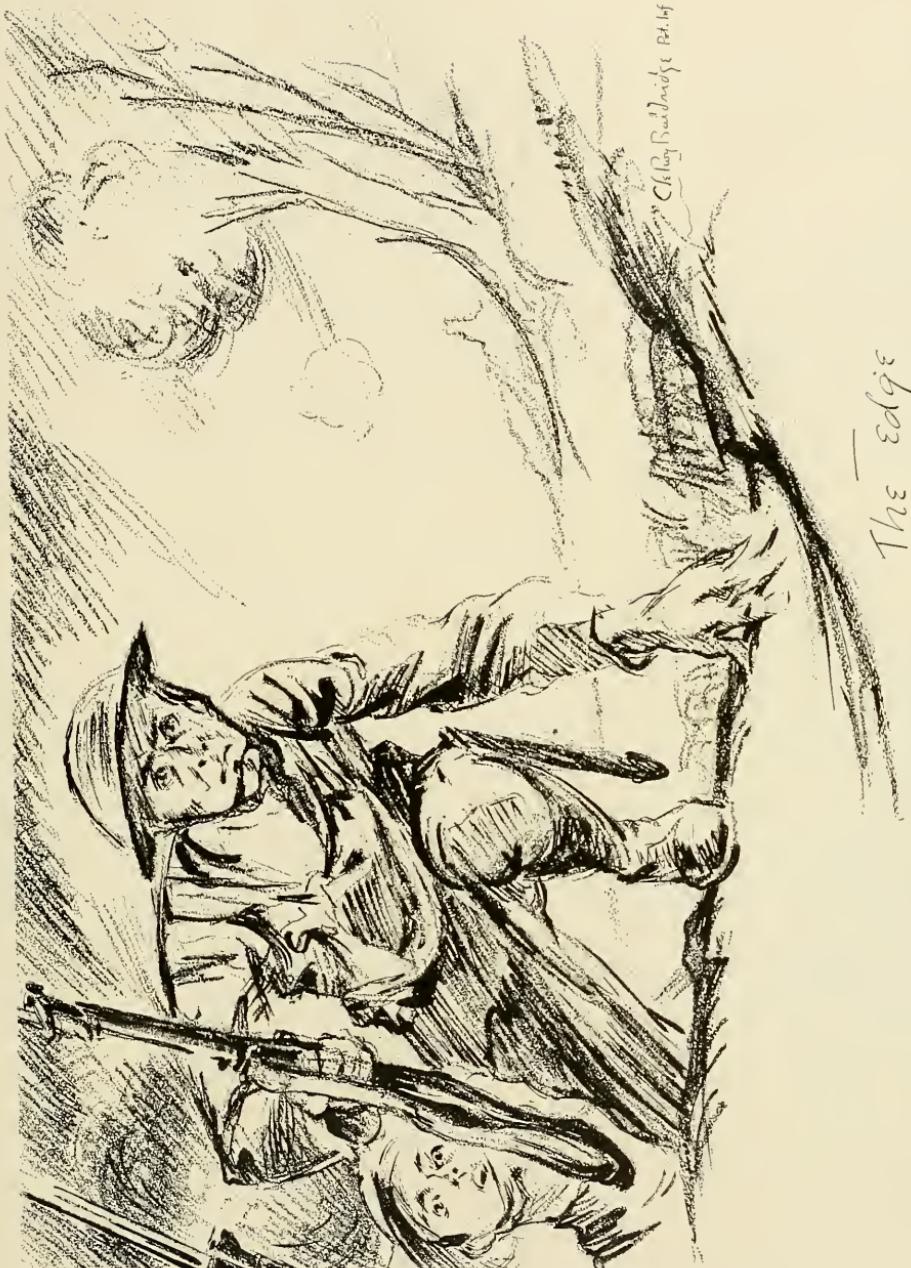


An American Ambulance at
a poste de secours (first aid station)
Ostel - 1917



An old trench
in the Argonne near Montfaucon

3.603 The Edge



THAT QUIET SECTOR

Four hours off — two hours on —
And not a thing to do but think,
And watch the mud and twisted wire
And never let your peepers blink.

Two hours on — four hours off —
The dug-out's slimy as the trench;
It stinks of leather, men, and smoke,—
You wake up dopey from the stench.

Four hours off — two hours on —
Back on the same old trick again,
The same old noth'n' to do at all
From yesterday till God knows when.
On post or not it's just the same,
The waiting is what gets your goat
And makes you want to chuck the game
Or risk a trench-knife in your throat.

Two hours on — four hours off —
I s'pose our job is not so hard,—
I s'pose sometime we're going to quit —
· · · · ·

The ghosts we leave — do they stand guard?



Pvt C. L. Roy, Baldridge, France



The water wagon
filled with red-hot
coffee going to the
ration dump via
shell fire and
not losing any
time about
it - Outside Bellair
wood - June '18



He's been on
every front from
Chateau-Thierry
to the Rhine

CH Roy Baldwin \$1

Coblenz - 1919

After the German artist
Drawing of old Quarry
used by Fritz as a
background - Chemin des Dames





"Wagon Soldiers"
(Vietnam for artillery)



Made in America

C. L. Day Baldridge
Pvt. Inf., A.E.F.
France Aug. 1918

"Marraines" (Godmothers)
who kept their
poilu godsons
at the front in
good cheer with
letters and pack-
ages from home,
and who took
their Yank cousins
to their hearts
in the same
kindly spirit



Sophie



Paris



Lionne



Madeleine

in Paris
and the
provinces

A type to match
the ideal of every
man who looks



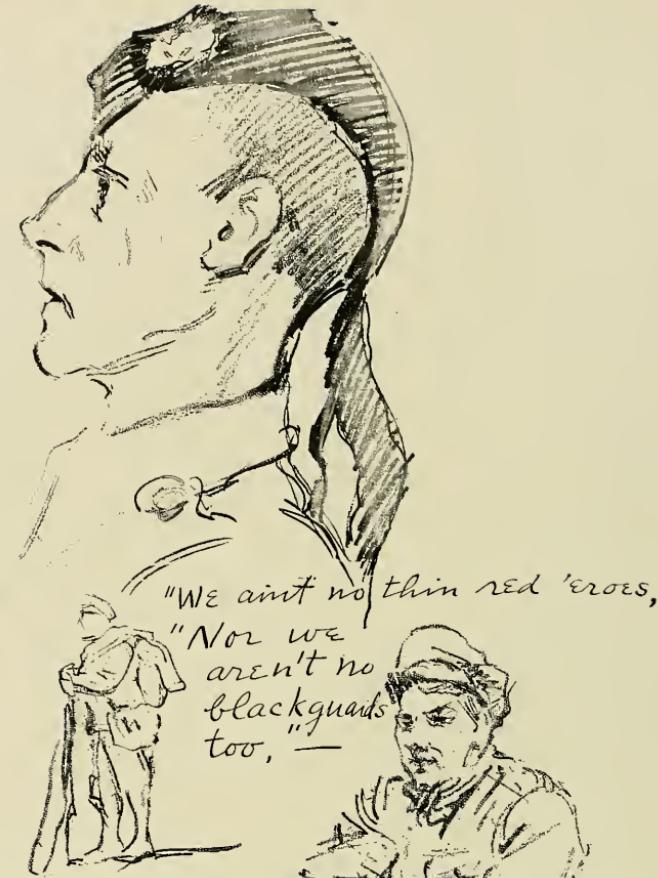
Baldridge 1917



"Papa Perrin"
Scissours
1917

Baldridge

No one knows where the poilu slang word "Pinard" came from, but everyone knows what it means. It's half way between water and red wine, with the kick mostly in the taste. It is served as an army ration. The poilu's canteen is always full of it.



"WE aint no thin red 'eroes,
"Nor we
aren't no
blackguards
too,"—





One of the
Agent-de-Ville = M. P.
teams of Paris
patrolling the
boulevard. They
have authority over both
Yank and Poche.

- C. Le Roy Baldridge -
Paris 1919

*Belgian
Types*



G. Le Roy Baldwin



The Tommy
Montdidier
1918

C. R. W. Biggs
France 1918

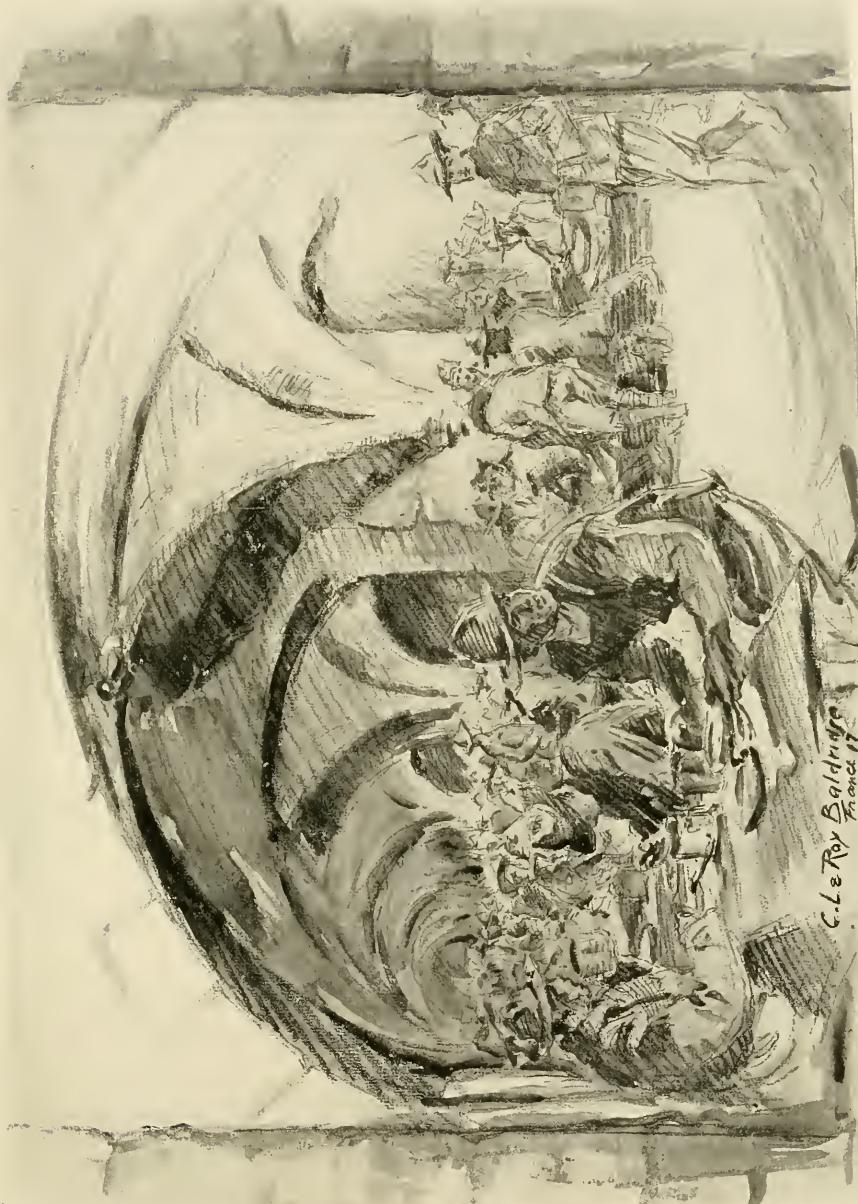


In the month
of July

C. E. R. Roy/Bethelridge - France '17

Caught by a star shell at a listening post, and attempting to "freeze" ticks
a rabbit with the bullet upon him, to look as much like a lump of
mud as possible until the glare dies down.





C. L. Roy Bandrige
France 1917

Ancient busts in the medieval
monastery of Port St. Maurice

French Colonial
Types

White,
black,
and
half-
way.



"Kamarad!"

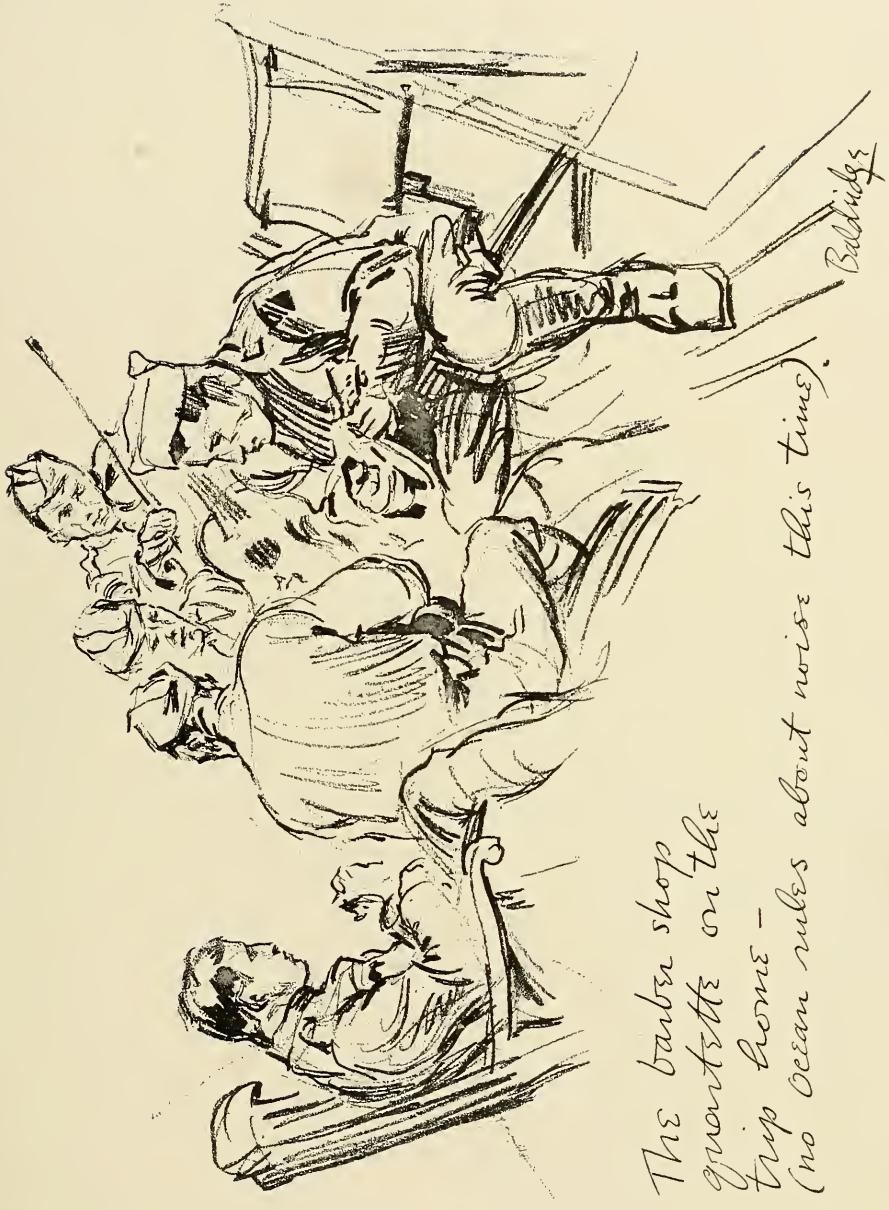




A Yank going on leave
having a midnight cup
of "vin rouge" in a compact-
ment of a Permissionnaire

Train - with a soixante-quinze gunner, a sailor from a submarine a
Chasseur, an aviation sergeant, and several infantrymen. For the next
ten days of "permission" these men can forget war.

C de l'Way, Loidmoy, E
en route - Nov/1918



The barber shops
granted us on the
trip home -
(no Ocean rules about noise this time).
Baldridge



Coming Out!
dirty, tired
and
grinning!

Chateau Thury
June - 1918



MAIL !
Brought up
to the front by the
nation detail

Baldridge



Forty feet
underground
in an old stone
quarry formerly
used by the Germans
as barracks.

Near Fort Malmont.

1918



(Mrs. Landry)

This is the cellar of her home. The house above no longer exists. For the living she washes clothes for the soldiers. Her daughter with two young children is a prisoner in Belgium. A third grandchild lives in this cave.



French dogs loaned by private families
and trained by the army for use as Red Cross
aids, sentinels, and message carriers.
Intelligence the only qualification - any breed goes



Kinaro



Said



Two dogs
who worked
together at
Verdun



Picard



Sultane



Marraine



Filon



"Mort pour la Patrie"



The O.D. Circuit





"Coming out" after "the Washington Battery Raid" Chemin des Dames - 1918 -





Ch Roy Baldridge
France
1918



French
Colonials
from
Northern
Africa
used in
shock troops

First regiment
Zouave

Ch Ray Baldridge
France 18

SALVAGE

I'll be stepping wide in these russet shoes!
Leather putts beside, honest I can't lose!
Guess the guy that had 'em left 'em in a hurry!
What the hell, he's S. O. L.

I should worry.

"That's my second razor!"
"Then gimme the blades."
"Whatcha got there, Buddy?"
"Pair of tailor-mades!"

I'll be walking on air! Yes. . . they was the top's!
He won't need 'em out there — if a big one drops.

"Going to keep that sweater?"
"No, look at the dirt."
"Put that on you, Buddy,
"You'll have to read your shirt!"

If I get that leave I can use 'em to dance.
Well, I should grieve, —he had his chance.

"Nothing doing! Beat it!
"Saw that luger first!"
"Ten francs says I want it."
"Done. I'll cure this thirst."

Brand-new russet shoes, I'll be stepping high!
Someone's got to lose, glad I ain't the guy.
If I'm going to use 'em, guess I'll have to hurry,
The next H. E. may be meant for me —
I should worry!



Balowidge



The Farmer's Cottage



In 1870 he lost an arm,
in 1917 he lost a son
and everything he owns

C. H. Roy Baldridge
Fiancé / 18

Lafayette Escadrille Men -

Marius -
who helps
keep the
big
planes
in
order



Pilot

Loupout
France
Nov 17

Observer

Le Roy Baldridge



Ch. Roy Balding
France
18

Making brooms from
brushwood at Antibes
for use on army
roads.



The Signal Corps

Mr. C. Le Ray Ballbridge
FRANCE



France Aug. 1918

C. W. Roy Bullock, Pte. Inf.

The gold star



Both under Arms
The "pepines" of
the '89 class
and the
"Marie-Louise"
of the
last
call

Chateau Barbridge
Soissons France '17

Café group of
poilus listening to
an American popular
song for the first
time, sung by Yanks
of The American
Field Service





— LeRoy Baldridge —

Home



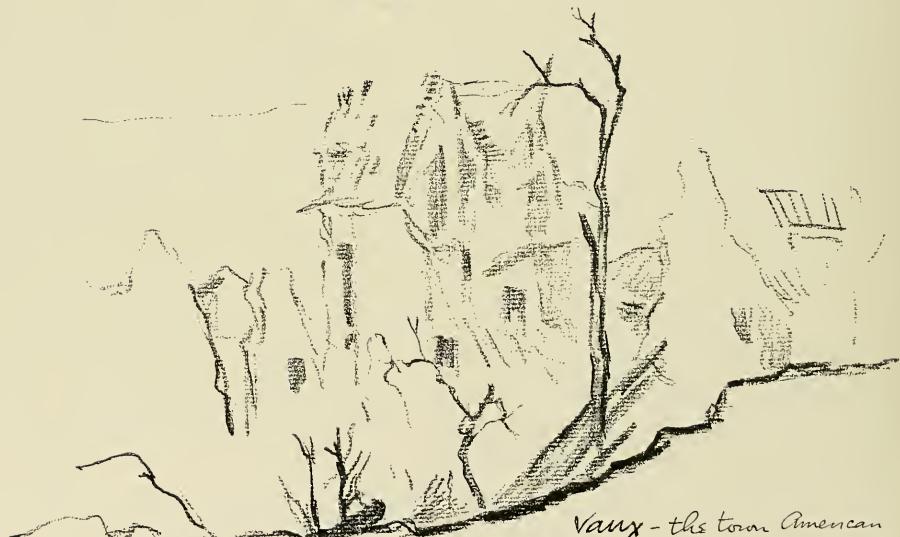
Some of
the first
ones

C. F. Ray Ballbridge
France - 1918



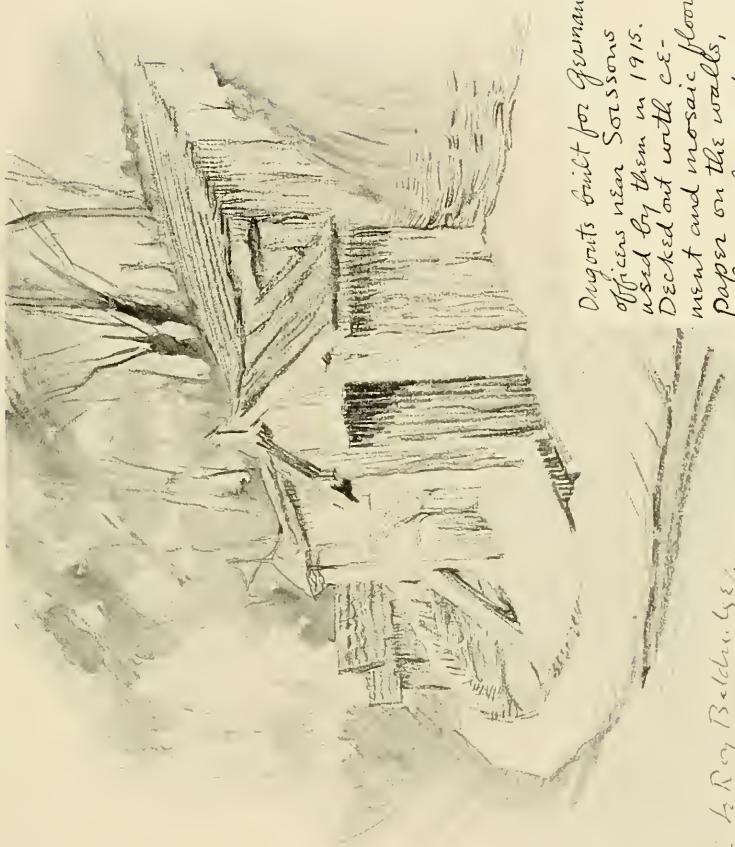
Le Roy Baldridge

Feet



R.B.

Vaux - the town American
artillery blew off.
the map together
with the German
inhabitants)



Dugouts built for German
officers near Sorresson
used by them in 1915.
Decked out with ce-
ment and mosaic floors,
paper on the walls,
tile roofs and
stained glass win-
dows. Used by
our troops in 1918

J. R. of Belvoir, G. E. I.



Baldridge
Am Hospital No 5

The American
Trained Nurse



What one man
is fighting for

C LeRoy Baldwin
Soissons - 1917



"Once upon a time"

Before leaving France
750,000 doughboys
contributed enough to
support 3,444 French
war orphans for one
year, and the "Stars
and Stripes" newspaper
left nearly three million
francs toward their
education

Annamites

French colonial
troops from
Indo-China

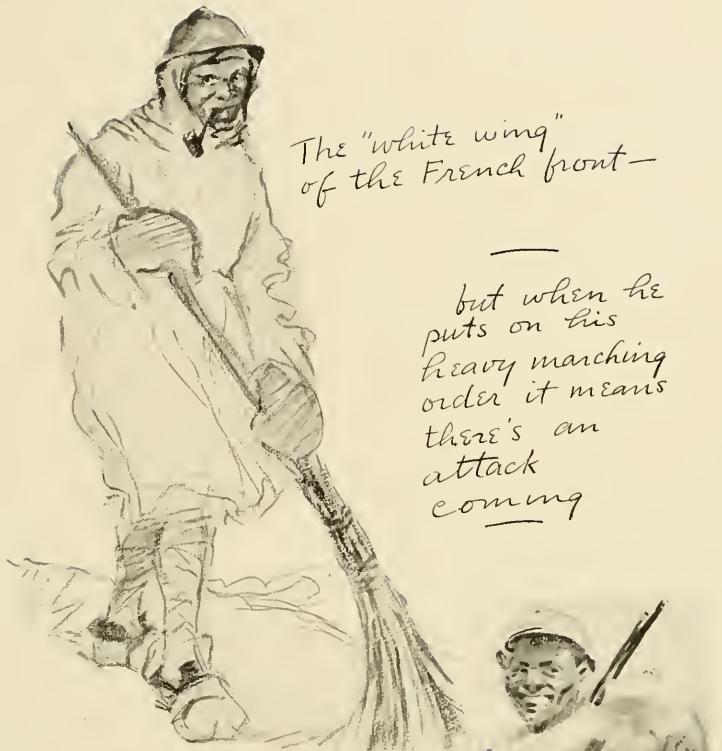
(Blackened
teeth
as an
aid to
health and
beauty)



These paid col-
onials were
used as attack-
ing troops, as
laborers on
roads and
as drivers
of light
trucks

Le Sergeant Tam
Lizy - sur - Ousey

(Elmer Bolbridge
France • 1918)



A King
in his own
country



Falda 1917

EQUIPMENT C

The Loot is getting wabbly,
With his dinky little pack,—
He can hear the sergeant cussing
But he doesn't dare look back.

But we ain't saying nothing
Since we got the order "route,"
Too dog-dead for even wond'ring
If we'll ever hear "fall out."

My damn rifle and my helmet
Keep on getting in the way,
And my brains are numb and dopey
Try'n' to cuss and try'n' to pray.

My throat's as dry as sawdust
And my right arm's gone to sleep,
And the pack-strap on my shoulder
Cuts a slit two inches deep.

I just lift one foot and shove it
And it hits most any place,
Then I lift and shove the other
T'keep from falling on my face.

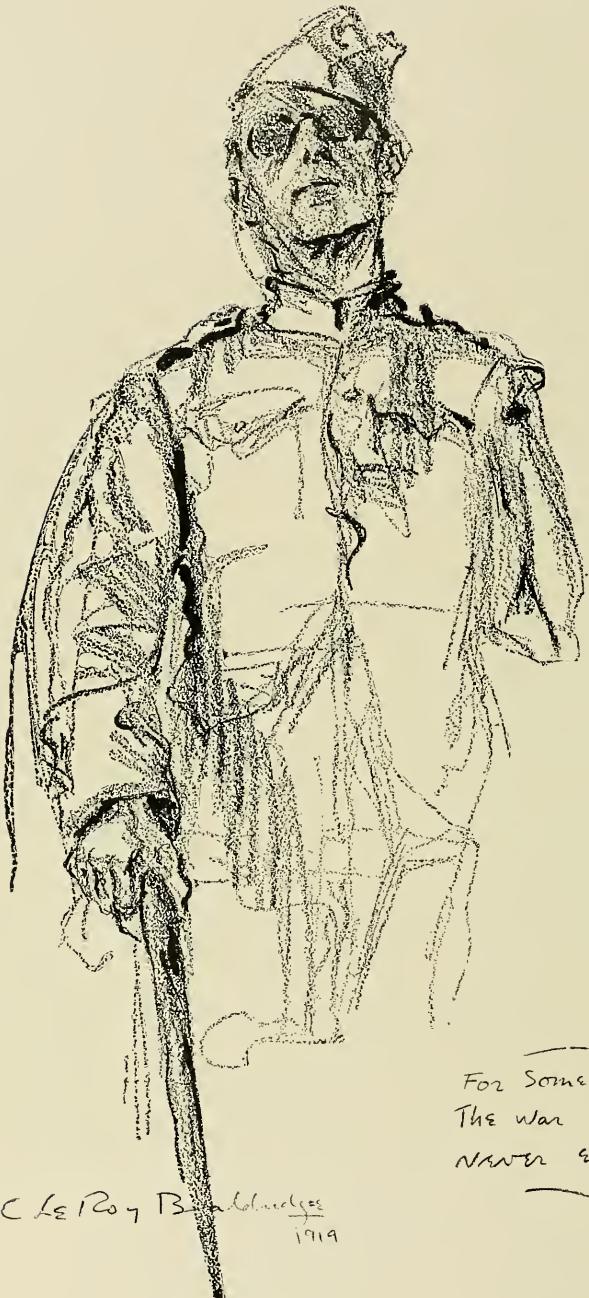
If the guide should change the cadence
I'll be damned if I could stop;
If you pushed me with a feather —
Well, I'd just curl up and drop.

And I know damn well there's stragglers
That'll ride up on a truck —
Guess if you ain't born a quitter,
You're just simply outa luck.

I suppose we'll keep on going --
Huh? The Skipper's faced about?
Halt! . . . I'm dreaming . . . in the daisies . . .
You don't need . . . to say . . . "fall out!"



Pt C. Leroy Ballou Jr



—
For Some of Us
The war will
Never end.
—

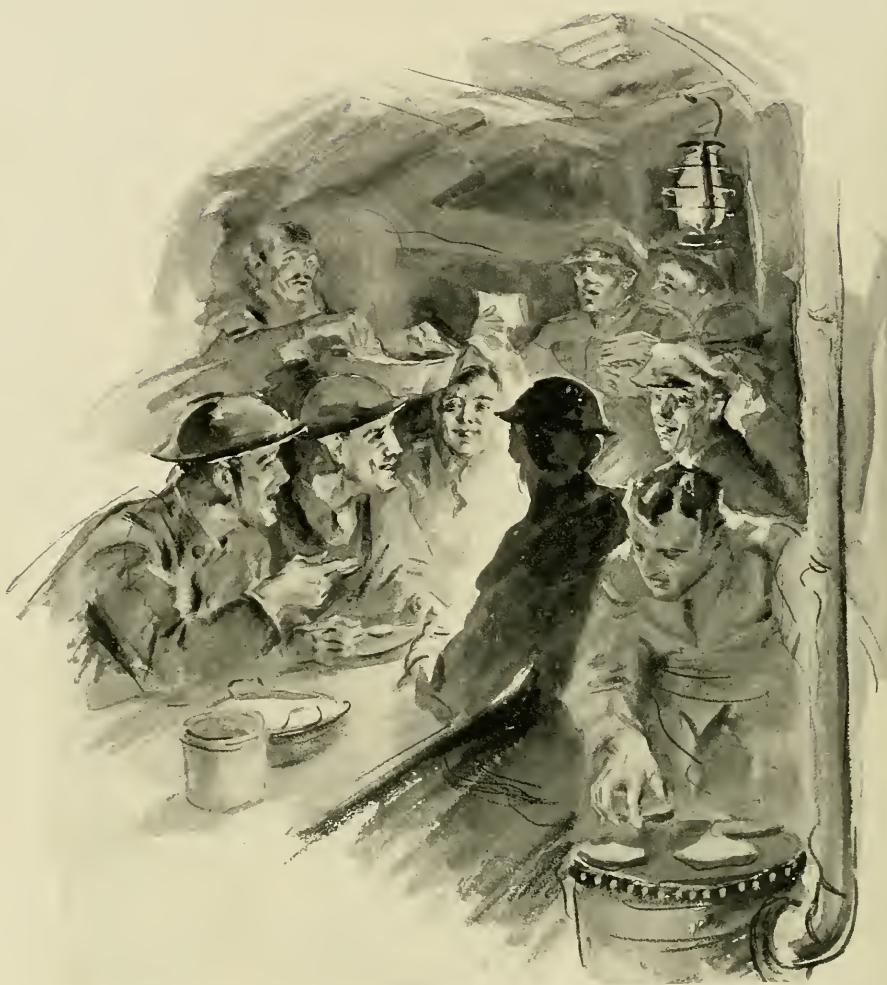
C. E. Roy Boultonbridge
1919



Ch. Roy Baldridge

Soissons - 1917

In an old Roman cellar two floors underground where civilians went during air raids as bombing planes passed over on their way to Compiegne, Paris, and interior cities. This "cave" was considered absolutely safe, but in October 1918 was completely demolished by one "155" shell.



Mess and distribution
of mail at the "iron-
com" school for the
M. T. C. at Longpont

Chelby Baldridge
1917



Far from Restidoway - Sichuan
Christmas 1917 at a Yuen Chia Hui



Dressing a
gas burn case



Mission Arizona
Contributing
Hospital for the
Treatment of Burns

Ch. 2nd Bal. 1st



Americans quartered
in the old abbey
St John de Vine of
Soissons in the
spring of '18

Baldridge

All the Same Family
Henn, who tends
sheep with
his assistant,



Leroy



She
teaches
us French



Jean, who
comes around
at mess time
for "confiture
Americaine,"
and who has
learned how
to say "chewing
gum" and
"cigarette."



And Pierre picked
the Spuds

Their last war



Baldridg -
Chateau Thierry - France 1918



The town of Cuffies
(sur Aisne) held by the
Germans till 1916.
When the old inhab.
ants began moving
back in; they were
assisted in re-establishing
their lives there by the
American Red Cross

The site of the
house of Madam
Crepin where the
Red Cross set up a
barrack cottage for
her.



Reims
Nov 18
Baldridge



The glory of Reims

C. E. C. Baldridge
Reims Nov. 1918



R. B.
Belleau Wood
1918

Cut off from rations
for three days in the
wood - with one can of
tomatoes for both
food and drink -



Buldrige

France, Aug. 1918

A sixteen year old
volunteer



120, Baldwins

“MADELON”

It seemed years since I had seen one,—
Years of hiking, sweat and blood,
Didn't think there was a clean one
In these miles of men and mud.

Well, I stood there, laughing, drinking,
Kidding her in bon fransay
But the things that I was thinking
Were a thousand miles away.

Sewed my stripe on like a mother,
Gee! She was a pretty kid....
But I left her like a brother,—
Shake her hand was all I did.

Then I says: “Vous, all right, cherry—”
And my throat stuck, and it hurt....
And I showed her what I carry
In the pocket of my shirt.



Maison Comtoise
France

Pot. E. Schrey Bublitsky
AEF



A second floor
billet

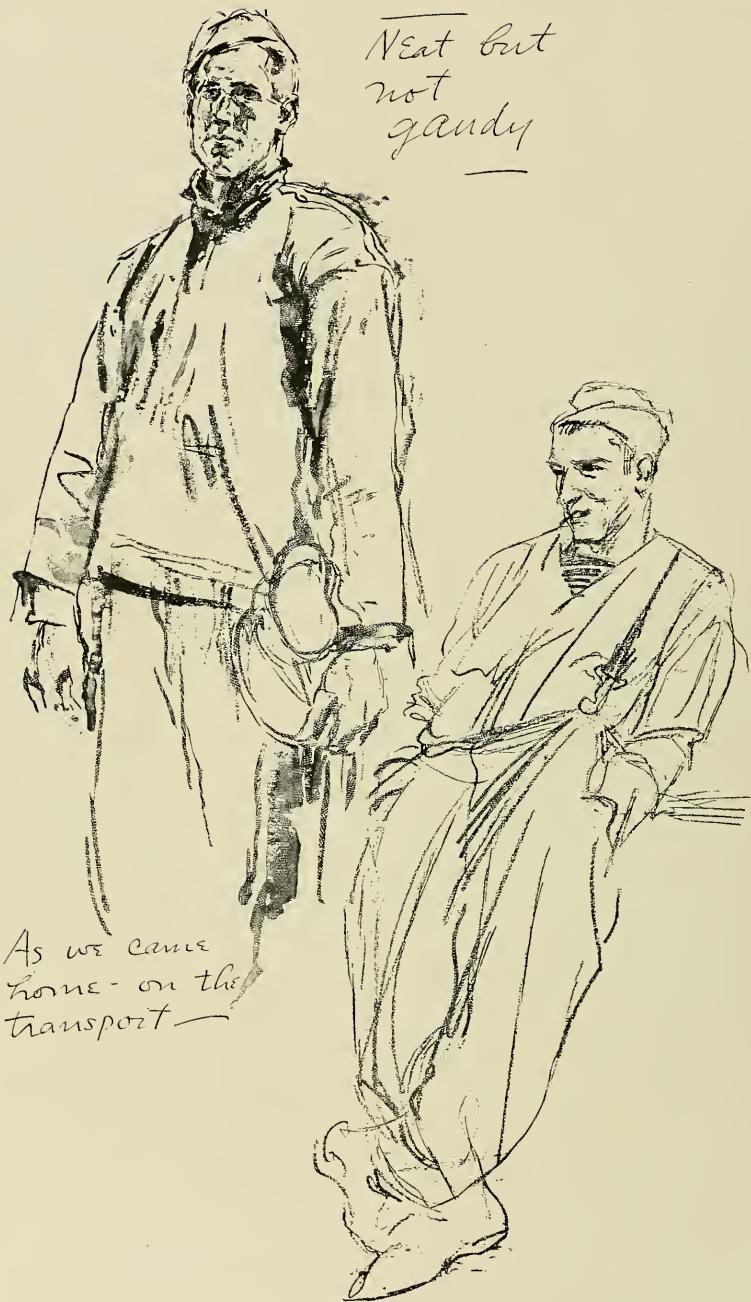
Outpost at
Hirschbach
Germany

Madelon of the
village, who washed
our clothes - and
who still has
some of those we
had to leave
when we were
pulled out
of the sector
in the middle
of the
night



C. Le Roy Baldridge

Neat but
not
gaudy



As we came
home - on the
transport —



C le Roy Baldridge
Drawn Adrien 1919

Troops coming home from
Marsella go by way of Africa
and stop to coal at Adren.
Here the doughboys meets the
French Arab soldier with whom
we fought side by side at
Sorrons -

Officers
Hommes 4



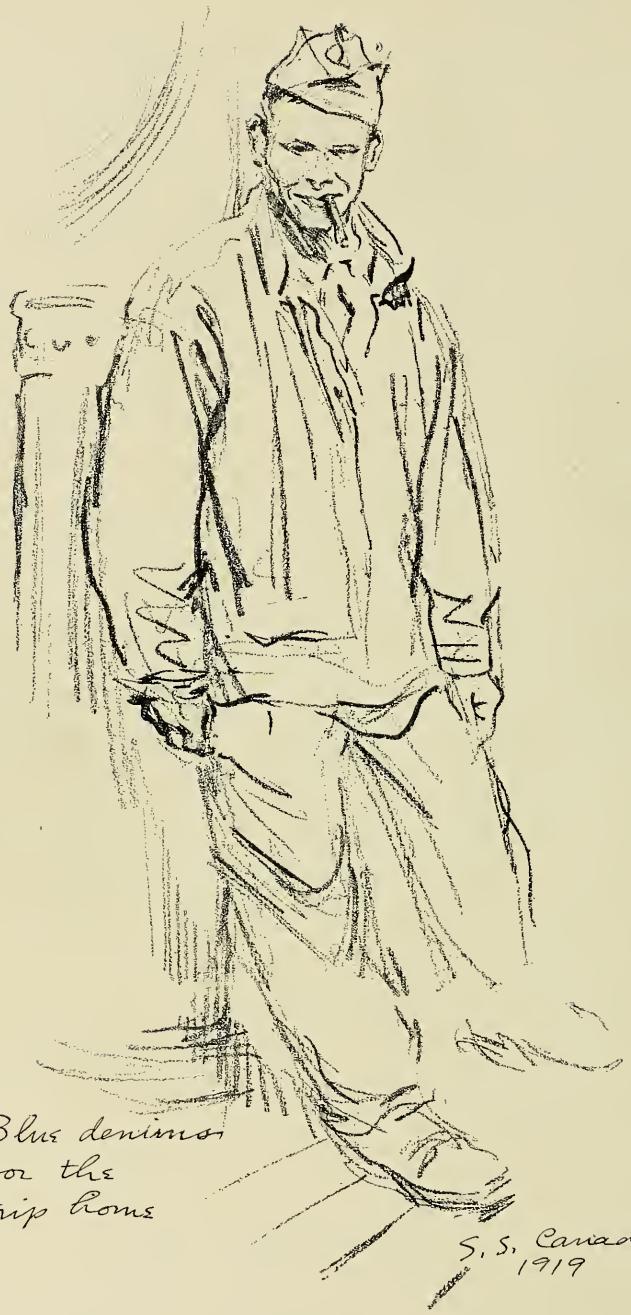
France 1919
Ready to go home

Reading the Draft Covenant
for The League of Nations—
Paris: —



Pet C. B. Roy Baldridge
Secretary
Feb 14 1919

General Bliss Colonel House Secretary Lansing — The President — M. Clemenceau Mr. Balton



Blue denim
for the
trip home

S. S. Canada
1919



Baldridge
Dec. 1918

Outpost at Molsberg, Germany,
in ancient castle which stands
just on the edge of the American
occupied area and the Neutral
Zone.

NOVEMBER ELEVENTH

We stood up and we didn't say a word,
It felt just like when you have dropped your pack
After a hike, and straightened out your back
And seem just twice as light as any bird.

We stood up straight and, God! but it was good!
When you have crouched like that for months, to stand
Straight up and look right out toward No-Man's-Land
And feel the way you never thought you could.

We saw the trenches on the other side
And Jerry, too, not making any fuss,
But prob'ly stupid-happy, just like us.
Nobody shot and no one tried to hide.

If you had listened then I guess you'd heard
A sort of sigh from everybody there,
But all we did was stand and stare and stare,
Just stare and stand and never say a word.





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